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Pres. Russell, Rickover

Russell's Gesture

Senator Russell has made a commendable gesture by inviting three members of the Foreign Relations Committee to sit in on meetings of his CIA watchdog committee. Although proposals designed to compel a broadening of the Russell committee were roundly defeated last year, 61 to 28, the fact that nearly one third of the Senate rallied around the Foreign Relations Committee indicated dangerous division on a critical national security issue. Senator Russell has wisely acted to heal the wounds left by this abrasive battle and has forestalled damaging new clashes at a time when the country is militarily engaged abroad. As Senator McCarthy has declared, the inclusion of Chairman Fulbright and Senators Mansfield and Hickenlooper "provides the substance of what we are asking for."

It is true that the position of the Foreign Relations representatives on the watchdog committee is a tenuous one dependent entirely on the sufferance of Senator Russell. Nevertheless, their inclusion concedes the validity of the principle for which the Foreign Relations Committee fought. The intelligence agencies of our Government clearly and incontestably impinge on the conduct of our foreign relations, and the Foreign Relations Committee has a legitimate claim to participation in congressional surveillance of the intelligence effort.

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